

Press Release
March 15, 2004
19

**Traveling exhibit on ancient U.S.
native culture to be presented in Oruro**

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy will sponsor another exhibit in the series entitled "Anasazi Culture: Ancient Peoples" at the Municipal House of Culture of Oruro, on March 17, at 11:00am. The Cultural Attaché of the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia, Rolf Olson and local authorities will inaugurate the exhibit that will be open until March 31.

This itinerant exhibit, already shown in the cities of La Paz, Santa Cruz, Sucre and Cochabamba, is the result of an exchange project organized by the American Association of Museums and sponsored by the Department of State of the United States. The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy worked on the design and set up of the exhibit, based on materials provided by the Anasazi Heritage Center of Dolores, Colorado.

The exhibit opens with a chronologic table showing the "Parallel Worlds" within the hemisphere: North America, Central America and South America and it illustrates the analogies among pre-Columbian cultures such as the Aztec, Inca Toltec, Olmec, Maya, Tiwanaku and Anasazi. The more than twenty panels of the exhibit illustrate different aspects of Anasazi culture and try to answer questions such as: Who were they? Where did they come from? Where did they live? What did they believe? The panels also show samples of their ceramics, ruins, and even the explanation for ritual dolls called "katchinas."

Even though the exhibit was designed primarily for children and youths of school age, it has attracted the attention of university students, academics, professionals and the general public. To enrich the learning process of students and promote their participation in local cultural events, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy is encouraging the attendance of students of urban and suburban schools in places where the exhibit is being shown.